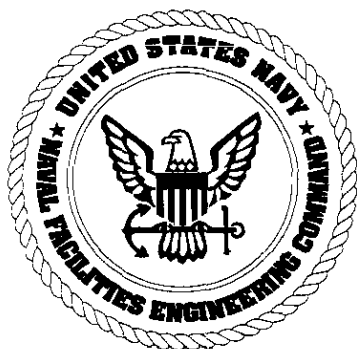


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FACT SHEET 2 FOR 1995 MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BASE
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NAVAL BASE, CHARLESTON

Environmental Cleanup Program

This fact sheet is one of a series to inform interested citizens about the environmental investigations and cleanup actions at Naval Base, Charleston. Other fact sheets will be written at appropriate points in the program and in response to public interest. Distribution is coordinated through the Public Affairs Office at Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Southern Division, (803) 820-5771.

MOST COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT BASE CLEANUP

The following questions were identified by the members of the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB). These questions represent the most commonly asked questions by the community regarding the Base Realignment and Closure cleanup activities at Naval Base, Charleston.

How long will it take to clean up the Naval Base?

At this time, there is no definitive answer to this question. The current investigation will identify the extent of contamination, and a follow up study will establish the best method to clean up any contamination that is found. After the cleanup method is determined, an estimate of the time can be developed.

What types of jobs (particularly in terms of salary) will replace the lost Navy jobs?

This question can be better answered by the Charleston Naval Complex Redevelopment Authority. The Navy is responsible for the environmental issues associated with the base closure, whereas the Redevelopment Authority is responsible for the redevelopment of the transferred property. Further inquiries regarding the economic development of the transferred property can be directed to Mr. Jack Sprott at (803) 724-0010.

Has any contamination been found that is hazardous to people or the environment?

To date, no contamination has been found in concentrations or conditions that pose an immediate threat to human health or the environment (trees, animals, etc.) All contamination is in low concentrations or is contained. As part of the cleanup process, a determination will be made of risk to human health and the environment. The amount of cleanup will be based in part on that risk assessment.

What is the schedule for cleanup activities?

Field investigations are already underway for the entire base. Cleanup at some sites is scheduled to take place in 1995. The last site cleanup is scheduled to begin in 1997. However, the results of the field investigations may change the anticipated cleanup schedule. The overall schedule is included in the Corrective Action Management Plan located in the Information Repositories. An up-to-date schedule of activities or "progress report" will be presented at the monthly Restoration Advisory Board meetings. These meetings are open to the general public.

How many places at Naval Base Charleston need to be cleaned up?

Approximately 450 individual sites on 1500 acres have been identified that may be contaminated with hazardous materials. Each one of these sites is evaluated during the investigation stage to confirm that contamination does or does not exist at each site. During this step, some sites may be found to be clean, in which case, further action will not be required.

What will be the environmental condition of the base when the Navy leaves?

The Navy will clean up contamination to meet South Carolina and federally approved environmental standards.

How much will the cleanup cost?

To date, 10 million dollars have been contracted out for base cleanup. The final cost, however, cannot be estimated with any certainty until the investigation is complete and all cleanup technologies have been chosen.

Who has to pay for the cleanup?

The Navy is responsible for all cleanup costs related to their activities. If, however, contamination is found that originated from other entities off base, they would be financially responsible for that cleanup cost.

How can we be sure that the Navy and other experts are telling the truth?

Decisions on investigation and cleanup at the Naval Base are made by a team comprised of the Navy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. They are involved in every step of the cleanup to ensure that human health and the environment in North Charleston are protected. In addition, public participation is promoted throughout the cleanup process. Forums for community involvement have been established, such as the development of the Restoration Advisory Board - a group of Navy, Federal, state, and local representatives, and local citizens who work in an advisory capacity regarding the cleanup activities. Also, an Information Repository, where reports and other pertinent documents are maintained, has been established at the Dorchester Road Regional Branch of the Charleston County Library for public access.

Hopefully, this fact sheet has answered questions you may have regarding the cleanup activities at Naval Base, Charleston. If you have additional questions regarding environmental cleanup activities, the RAB, Information Repositories, or, if you would like to be added to the informational mailing list, feel free to call or write the Public Affairs Office:

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